

REMARKS

Claims 1-72 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1-72 to improve clarity. Applicant respectfully submits that no impermissible new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-24 are objected to because of informalities, specifically, the Examiner recommends amending "Electric equipment" to recite "An electric equipment". Applicant hereby amends Claims 1-6 according to the Examiner's suggestion. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection of claims 1-24.

Claim Rejections Under § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. By this Amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-72 are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and requests that the Examiner please withdraw the rejection of the claims.

Claims Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11, 13-15, 17, 19-21, 23, 25-27, 29, 31-33, 35, 37-39, 41, 43-45, 47, 49-51, 53, 55-57, 59, 61-63, 65, 67-69 and 71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over JPA HEI10-49493 (hereinafter "JPA '493) in view of Harada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7, 093, 300; hereinafter "Harada"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Independent Claim 1

Applicant respectfully submits that Harada fails to teach or suggest:

a function limiting module for setting a function limit to the electric apparatus so that at least part of functions of the electric apparatus become unavailable;

an interface for connecting a first external device to the electric apparatus;

a module for obtaining first device identification information from the first external device connected via the interface to the electric apparatus to identify the first device external device;

a module for associating the function limit with the device identification information of a prescribed external device to obtain a cryptographic key;

Harada relates to an electronic apparatus having a security function for theft prevention.

The electronic apparatus falls into a cancelable inoperable state and cannot perform its intrinsic operations in order to prevent theft. The electronic apparatus maintains a code A22, and means for inputting a code B2. When the codes A22 and B2 have a “predetermined second relationship”, the inoperable state of the electronic apparatus is cancelled. *See* Harada, col. 2, lines 22-44, and col. 2, line 61- col. 3, line 10.

The Examiner cites the assigning of the code A22 in Harada for teaching “a module for associating the function limit with the device identification information of a prescribed external device to obtain a cryptographic key”, as recited in claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Claim 1 recites “setting a function limit to the electric apparatus so that at least part of functions of the electric apparatus become unavailable”, obtaining a “device identification “from an external device connected via the interface of the electric apparatus”, and finally “associating the

function limit with the device identification information of a prescribed external device".

Therefore, claim 1 recites that the "function limit" is of the "electronic apparatus", while the "device identification" is of the "external device" and that that "function limiting" is "associated" with the "device identification" of the "external device". The Examiner asserts that the "electronic apparatus" of Harada corresponds to the claimed "electronic apparatus", and that the "identification code A22", corresponds to the recited "device identification", *See* Office Action at pg. 7. Therefore, Harada fails to teach or suggest that the "identification code A22" is "from an external device" or that "the function limit" is associated "with the device identification information of a prescribed external device", as recited in claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 would not have been obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over JP '493 in view of Harada, because the references, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of the features of the claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claim 1, and claims 7, 13 and 19 at least by virtue of their dependency from an allowable claim.

Independent Claim 2

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 2 would not have been obvious over JP '493 in view of Harada, for the reasons given with regard to independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claim 2, and claims 8, 14 and 20 *at least* by virtue of their dependency from an allowable claim.

Independent Claim 3

For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that JP '493 and Harada, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest:

a function limiting module for setting a function limit to the electric apparatus so that at least part of functions of the electric apparatus become unavailable;

a plurality of interfaces for connecting external devices to the electric apparatus;

a module for obtaining device identification information from an external device connected via one of the plurality of interfaces to the electric apparatus to identify the external device;

a module for associating the function limit with at least one of the device identification information and a combination of pieces of the device identification and other device identification information to obtain a cryptographic key;

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claim 3, and claims 9, 15 and 21 *at least* by virtue of their dependency form an allowable claim.

Independent Claim 5

For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that JP '493 and Harada, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest:

a function limiting module for setting one or more function limits to the electric apparatus so that at least part of functions of the electric apparatus become unavailable;

a plurality of interfaces for connecting external devices to the electric apparatus;

a module for obtaining device identification information from an external device connected via one of the plurality of interfaces to the electric apparatus to identify the external device;

a module for associating each function limit of the one or more function limits with at least one of the device identification information and a combination of pieces of the device identification information to thereby obtain a cryptographic key;

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claim 5, and claims 10, 15 and 23.

Claims 4, 6, 10, 12, 16, 18, 22, 24, 28, 30, 34, 36, 40, 42, 46, 48, 52, 54, 58, 60, 64, 66, 70 and 72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over JP '493 and Harada, in view of Bajikar (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0194500). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Independent Claim 4

Applicant respectfully submits that JP '493, Harada and Bajikar, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest:

function limiting module for setting a function limit to the electric apparatus so that at least part of functions of the electric apparatus become unavailable;

a plurality of interfaces for connecting external devices to the electric apparatus;

a module for obtaining device identification information from an external device connected via one of the plurality of interfaces to the electric apparatus to identify the external device;

a module for generating connection route information indicating which interface of the plurality of interfaces is used to connect the external device that has provided the device identification information;

a module for associating the function limit with a combination of the device identification information and connection route information to obtain a cryptographic key;

First, Applicant submits that Bajikar fails to compensate for the deficiencies of JP '493 and Harada, and so independent claim 4 is *at least* patentable for reasons similar to those stated above. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that Bajikar fails to teach or suggest "a module for generating connection route information indicating which interface of the plurality of interfaces is used to connect the external device that has provided the device identification information", as recited in claim 4.

The Abstract and claims 1, 2 and 4 of Bajikar, which the Examiner cites as allegedly teaching the above recited features of claim 4, merely teaches a security server which obtains security information about a secure device, including the location of that secure device. Nowhere does Bajikar even mention "generating connection route information" or "generating connection route information indicating which interface... is used to connect the external device that has provided the device identification", as recited in claim 1.

Further, Bajikar does not teach, nor does the Examiner provide any real reasoning that any of the references teach "a determining module for determining whether a second combination of device identification information obtained from each external device of one or more external devices connected via one of the interfaces to the electric apparatus and connection route information for each external device of the one or more external devices matches the cryptographic key stored in the memory", as recited in claim 4.

Bajikar actually appears irrelevant to the present invention, and from an entirely different field of endeavor than JP '493 and Harada, which relate to security functions of an electronic apparatus, as opposed to a Bluetooth based security system utilized to provide ad-hoc security

services, as in Bajikar. And while not dispositive, the fact that two references are from different fields of endeavor, and are not related to solving the same or similar problems, is highly suggestive of a lack of motivation to combine. *See* M.P.E.P. 2141.01(a).

Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that independent claim 5 would not have been obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), because JP '493, Harada, and Bajikar, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the features and limitations of the claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claim 4, and claims 8, 14 and 20 *at least* by virtue of their dependency from an allowable claim.

Independent Claim 6

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 6 would not have been obvious over JP '493 in view of Harada, for the reasons given with regard to independent claim 4. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claim 6, and claims 12, 18 and 24 *at least* by virtue of their dependency from an allowable claim.

Independent Claims 25-30

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 25 - 30 recite features similar to claims 1-6, respectively, except in method form, and are patentably distinguishable from the prior art according to similar reasoning. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the

Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claims 25-30, and claims 31-48 *at least* by virtue of their respective dependencies.

Independent Claims 49-54

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 49 - 54 recite features similar to claims 25-30, respectively, except in computer program product form, and are patentably distinguishable from the prior art according to similar reasoning. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claims 49-54, and claims 55-72 *at least* by virtue of their respective dependencies.

Conclusion

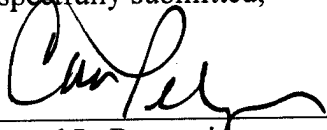

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/635,677

Attorney Docket No. Q76889
Art Unit 2135

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

 #40,166

Howard L. Bernstein
Registration No. 25,665

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 20, 2007